

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 286396  
ORIGIN DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 SS-15  
SP-02 L-03 H-01 NSCE-00 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 EB-08 /070 R

DRAFTED BY S/AR:AGJAMES/MW  
APPROVED BY S/AR:ELRICHARDSON  
NEAR/ARP:FHGERLACH (SUBS)  
NEA/INS:ATHIBAULT (INFO)  
-----014063 010155Z /41  
O P 010102Z DEC 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 286396

JIDDA FOR AMB WEST//NEW DELHI FOR AMB GOHEEN//

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS - STATUS OF PRESIDENT AMERASINGHE

FROM AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON

1. AMBASSADOR WRIGGINS REPORTED NOVEMBER 29 THAT PRIME MINISTER JAYAWARDENE HAD INFORMED HIM BY LETTER THAT HE REGRETTED HE COULD NOT EXTEND LOS CONFERENCE PRESIDENT AMERASINGHE'S SERVICE BEYOND FEBRUARY 1978. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THIS DECISION OF THE SRI LANKA GOVERNMENT HAS NOT SO FAR BEEN MADE PUBLIC. WE HAVE THEREFORE BEEN VERY CIRCUMSPECT IN COMMUNICATING OUR INFORMATION TO A VERY LIMITED  
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SRI LANKA GOVERNMENT WHICH WE HOPE MIGHT HAVE THE EFFECT OF PERSUADING THEM TO RECONSIDER.

2. IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT US HAS ABSOLUTELY NO INTENTION OF INTERFERING IN INTERNAL DECISIONS OF SRI LANKA

GOVERNMENT. WHOM THEY APPOINT AS SRI LANKA PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN IS OF COURSE THEIR OWN AFFAIR. AMERASINGHE, AS YOU KNOW, IS BOTH SRI LANKA PERMREP TO UN AND CHIEF DELEGATE TO LOS CONFERENCE. HE NEED NOT BE PERMREP TO SERVE AS CHIEF DELEGATE TO LOS CONFERENCE, BUT UNLESS HE IS LATTER HE COULD NO LONGER CONTINUE AS CONFERENCE PRESIDENT.

3. THE FUTURE OF THE CONFERENCE COULD WELL DEPEND ON AMERASINGHE'S BEING ABLE TO CONTINUE IN HIS PRESENT CAPACITY. THE EMERGENCE OF THE INFORMAL COMPOSITE NEGOTIATING TEXT FROM THE LAST LOS SESSION GAVE THE PRESIDENT A FAR GREATER ROLE THAN HE HAD PREVIOUSLY, WHEN RESPONSIBILITY WAS SUBDIVIDED AMONG COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN. MOREOVER, AT THE RECENT INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS IN GENEVA AND NEW YORK WHICH DISCUSSED THE FUTURE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE, IT WAS THE UNANIMOUS VIEW OF KEY CONFERENCE DELEGATES THAT AMERASINGHE SHOULD HENCEFORTH TAKE THE INITIATIVE AND BE IN CHARGE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. IT WAS ALSO STRONGLY FELT THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR THE PRESIDENT TO ESTABLISH CONFIDENTIAL

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4. I HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE AND CONTINUING TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR BERNARDO ZULETA, SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE LOS CONFERENCE, AND THREE KEY DELEGATES FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ABOUT WHAT MIGHT BE DONE TO PERSUADE JAYAWARDENE NOT TO CARRY OUT HIS INTENDED TERMINATION OF AMERASINGHE'S CONTRACT. I HAVE DONE THIS VERY QUIETLY, NOT WISHING TO SPREAD THE WORD SOONER THAN WOULD BE DESIRABLE. (FYI AMERASINGHE KNOWS OF JAYAWARDENE'S INTENTION ALTHOUGH AS OF TODAY HE HAD

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6. FOR AMBASSADOR WEST: FOR YOUR INFORMATION WE HAVE HAD INDIRECT WORD FROM AMERASINGHE THAT HE THINKS AN APPROACH TO THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS A MISSION IN COLOMBO MIGHT HAVE SOME EFFECT. I WOULD THEREFORE BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD SEEK THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO APPROACH THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT AT THE HIGHEST PRACTICABLE LEVEL TO URGE THEM TO MAKE A DEMARCHE TO THE SRI LANKA GOVERNMENT, PREFERABLY TO THE PRIME MINISTER HIMSELF, ALONG THE LINES OF PARA SEVEN BELOW.

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7. FOR BOTH AMBASSADORS WEST AND GOHEEN: IN YOUR APPROACHES TO YOUR HOST GOVERNMENTS YOU MAY SHARE WITH THEM ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS THE INFORMATION WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM OUR AMBASSADOR IN COLOMBO. PLEASE SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT IT SEEMS TO US IMPERATIVE, WHEN THE SAUDI AND INDIAN GOVERNMENTS MAKE THE APPROACHES WE HOPE THEY WILL MAKE, NOT REPEAT NOT TO REFER TO ANY SPECIFIC HARD INFORMATION THAT JAYAWARDENE HAS DECIDED TO END AMERASINGHE'S EMPLOYMENT. TO DO SO COULD ONLY HARDEN JAYAWARDENE'S RESOLVE NOT TO RECONSIDER AND IT COULD COMPROMISE THE US AS THE SOURCE OF SUCH INFORMATION. RATHER WE HOPE THAT THEY MIGHT NOTE THAT THERE IS GROWING UNEASE AMONG MANY DELEGATIONS THAT AMERASINGHE'S FUTURE HAS NOT BEEN CLARIFIED, ESPECIALLY SINCE THEY HAVE HEARD RUMORS THAT HE MAY NOT STAY ON; THAT HIS SITUATION IS ESPECIALLY UNSETTLING IN VIEW OF THE CENTRAL ROLE THE CONFERENCE PRESIDENT WILL AND MUST PLAY DURING THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD AND AT THE SEVENTH SESSION AS WELL; AND FINALLY, THAT THEY HOPE THE SRI LANKA GOVERNMENT APPRECIATES THE IMPORTANCE TO THE CONFERENCE OF HAVING THE CONTINUED LEADERSHIP OF AMERASINGHE.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /010 R

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DRAFTED BY:S/AR:AGJAMES

APPROVED BY:S/AR:ELRICHARDSON

-----028911 021229Z /12

R 020610Z DEC 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 286396

FOL SECSTATE 286396 SENT ACTION JIDDA NEW DELHI INFO COLOMBO  
USUN DEC 1, 1977 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 286396

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E.O. 11652:GDS

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Media Identifier:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** PLOS, PORG, (JAYEWARDENE, J R), (AMERASINGHE, HAMILTON SHIRLEY), (WRIGGINS, W HOWARD)  
**To:** JIDDA NEW DELHI  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009